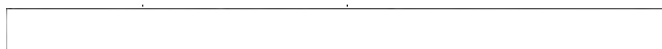




CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF



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4 FEBRUARY 1966

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DAILY BRIEF
4 FEBRUARY 1966

1. Soviet Union

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The Soviets apparently have delayed publication of Izvestia to enable it to carry the first public photographic releases.

Government and scientific leaders throughout the world are generally giving the Soviets full credit for a significant space achievement.

2. Communist China

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3. Vietnam

The Soviets seem still disinclined to take any initiative on Vietnam. In fact, they seem quite content to follow Hanoi's lead for the time being.

[redacted]
[redacted] Premier Kosygin late last month insisted, as he has before, that Moscow has no authority to speak for Hanoi. He refused to commit himself on a suggestion that India try to bring the US and North Vietnam together on some neutral ground.

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In a similar vein, Soviet diplomats at the UN are taking a strict hands off attitude toward current consultations among Security Council members on Vietnam. There are intimations that they would veto any substantive resolution.

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4. Communist China

Peking has delivered an extremely sharp note to Djakarta protesting yesterday's "barbarous attack" on the Chinese Embassy in Djakarta. This is the fifth such protest to Djakarta since last fall [redacted]

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5. Indonesia

Announcement of Sukarno's "political solution" is still being forecast for tomorrow by sources in Djakarta.

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Anti-Communist student groups are restive under the army's cautious "no showdown" policy. Sources in Djakarta are reporting student plans to resume demonstrations today or tomorrow. These demonstrations came very close last month to being openly anti-Sukarno. Serious violence was narrowly averted on one occasion only by prompt army intervention.

6. Ethiopia

The restiveness and coup rumors that have increased in Addis Ababa since the Nigerian revolt have apparently prompted the Emperor to shuffle some key military and civil government personnel. He recognizes a potential danger, but seems to underestimate the depth and extent of the pressures that have been building up for basic reforms.

During a long conversation yesterday with Ambassador Korry, the Emperor did not appear overly concerned with problems of internal security. He did recognize that governmental inefficiency is adding to the undercurrent of unrest, but blamed this on ineffective ministers. He seems prepared to make scapegoats of some of them.

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Panama

Arnulfo Arias has again served notice that he is out to sabotage the Canal treaty now under negotiation with the US. In a press conference last night he and other principal opposition leaders blasted the government for carrying on the talks "behind the backs" of the Panamanian people. Arias, reflecting his contention that he was cheated out of the presidency by Robles in the last elections, implied that any treaty concluded by the "illegal" government would be unacceptable.

Arias, a veteran demagogue, who now heads Panama's largest political party, has a formidable capacity for causing trouble. The treaty will not be ready for ratification by the Panamanian Assembly until summer at the earliest. President Robles, who can count on only a very few Assembly votes, plans some early political maneuvers, including cabinet changes, in an effort to strengthen his position.

Ecuador

Military leaders have been meeting today to discuss replacement of the present three-man military junta with a single executive. There is as yet no word on the outcome, nor on the precise reasons this has come up now. It could be the result of pressure by those officers anxious to maintain the military's role in government after the national elections that have been scheduled for next June.

The student demonstrations of the past several days seem unrelated to the possible government change. The police can handle the type of small-scale student agitations that have occurred. If restive labor and political elements jump on the student bandwagon, however, the situation could worsen quickly.

9. Belgium

The government resigned today after a vain effort of many weeks to head off a new doctors' strike, now set to begin on Sunday. A lengthy period of negotiations on a new government is in prospect. Some refurbished version of the old Catholic-Socialist coalition may be the end result. Meanwhile, however, other serious problems will be pressing for solution--organized labor's reaction to the doctors' pressures, the problems of the unemployed miners, and the worsening linguistic difficulties.

10. Italy

Aldo Moro is meeting the expected difficulties in the long and complicated task of trying to form a new government. Ambassador Reinhardt still believes Moro has a better than even chance of success. If he fails, early national elections would be the likely prospect.

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